

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
AUTHORIZING CONGRESS TO  
PROHIBIT PHYSICAL DESECRATION  
OF THE FLAG OF THE  
UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 17, 2001*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our American flag and as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 36, which would amend the Constitution to allow Congress to protect the United States flag from acts of physical desecration.

Our flag occupies a truly unique place in the hearts of millions of citizens as a cherished symbol of freedom. As an international emblem of the world's greatest democracy, the American flag should be treated with respect and care. I do not believe our free speech rights should entitle us to consider the flag as mere "personal property," which can be treated any way we see fit, including physically desecrating it as a form of political protest.

The American flag is a source of inspiration wherever it is displayed, and a symbol of hope to all nations struggling to build democracies. As a proud member of the House Armed Services Committee, I deeply admire those who have fought and died to preserve our freedoms. These men and women have bravely defended our flag and the fundamental principles for which it stands. They deserve to know that their government treasures the flag and all it represents as much as they do.

For these reasons I, as well as a great number of Americans, believe that our flag should be treated with dignity and deserves protection under the law. I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting one of the most enduring symbols of our nation and our democracy by adopting this resolution today.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT  
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-  
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 24, 2001*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Lee-Leach Global HIV/AIDS Amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which will increase the United States' contribution to the international AIDS trust fund from \$100 million to \$160 million.

In June 1981, scientists reported the first evidence of a disease that would become known as AIDS. Twenty years later, the AIDS pandemic has spread to every corner of the world. Almost 22 million people have already

lost their lives to the disease, and over 36 million people are currently infected with the HIV virus. The numbers are indeed staggering.

Yet, the consequences of the AIDS pandemic extend far beyond the death tolls. The AIDS pandemic is much more than just a health crisis. It is a social crisis, an economic crisis, and a political crisis. AIDS knows no borders, and respects no boundaries.

A world with AIDS is a world in chaos. Imagine growing up without parents, without teachers. Imagine living in a community with no options for work, no options for education, no mentors or civic leaders to help mold the community's youths into productive members of society. Imagine living in a world where people have no reason to plan for the years ahead, no reason to want to better themselves or improve society. This is the world of AIDS. This is the world we live in.

As the world's greatest nation—the nation that is most admired, most respected, and most powerful—we must take a leading role in the fight against AIDS. We must demonstrate to the global community the depth of our compassion, the breadth of our courage, and the strength of our commitment to the greater good. To do otherwise would be irresponsible and inhumane. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the Lee-Leach Global HIV/AIDS Amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING DAVID AND SUE ANN  
SMITH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take time to recognize two individuals, David and Sue Ann Smith. They have shared a life together for fifty years. These two were married in Gallup, New Mexico on December 28, 1951. This is a special and "golden" occasion, and quite an event in times when marriage doesn't always endure these long years. It shows great dedication and hard work, exemplifying such values for future generations in their family. As family and friends will gather to celebrate this joyous occasion, I too would like to recognize them at this special time.

David and Sue Ann have built and shared their life together these fifty years in Meeker, Colorado on the Smith Family Ranch that has been in the family for well over 100 years. It is a Centennial Ranch in Colorado. David and Sue Ann expanded the ranch in the late 1960's by adding the Barrett ranches and the Ed Spord Ranch, and the ranch now surrounds the town of Meeker on all four sides.

In addition to the responsibilities of the ranch work, David and Sue Ann both have been heavily involved with their community. Both have been active on numerous Community Boards. David served on the School Board, worked with the Cub Scouts, served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and served as a Rio Blanco County Commissioner. He has been and still is involved with many water issues. He currently serves on the Meeker Town Ditch Committee, the Highland and Yellow Jacket Ditch Groups, and is also a long-standing member of the Colorado River District Board and the Colorado Water Conservancy Board.

Sue Ann has worked as a den mother for the Cub Scouts and has been a leader for various Girl Scout troops. She has also been active with the Colorado West Mental Health Group and many 4-H groups. She is now working with the Safe House Group, the Build a Generation Group, and she started the Walbridge Wing Family Support Group. As you can see, these two individuals have contributed and still contribute many hours of service and dedication to their community.

Their largest contribution has always been to their family. They have raised five children: David W. Smith, Brent A. Smith, Phillip M. Smith, Lori E. McInnis, and Brian E. Smith. They now have eleven grandchildren. Through their work on their ranch and all of their community service, they have provided their children and grandchildren with morals and values for hard work and the giving of oneself to others. The largest gift given is the example set forth through fifty years of a strong and determined love for each other.

David and Sue Ann, congratulations on your fifty years together. We wish you many more great years together.

HONORING GEORGE C. SPRINGER  
FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO  
THE COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 25, 2001*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees, AFT, AFL-CIO in paying tribute to their president of twenty-two years, and my dear friend, George C. Springer as he celebrates the occasion of his retirement. His outstanding leadership and unparalleled dedication has made a difference in the lives of thousands of families across Connecticut.

I have always held a firm belief in the importance of education and a deep respect for the individuals who dedicate their lives to ensuring that our children—our most precious resource—are given a strong foundation on which to build their futures. As a twenty year veteran of the New Britain, Connecticut school system, George made it his personal mission to help our students learn and grow—touching the lives of thousands of students.

During his tenure in the New Britain school system, George also served as an officer and negotiator for the New Britain Federation of Teachers, Local 871. Twenty-two years ago, he was elected to the position of state federation president. As the state president, George has been a tireless advocate for his membership and their families. I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a country that allows its workers to engage in efforts to better employee standards and benefits. George has been a true leader for teachers across the state, providing a strong voice on their behalf.

George set a unique tone for this organization, extending their mission beyond the fight for better wages, better work environments, and more comprehensive health benefits. He has led the effort of the Connecticut chapter to become more involved with the larger issues of how to improve our schools—for teachers and for students. Though we will miss him in